

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. (Currently amended) A thermal transfer printer/labeller for cassettes or ready-to-use packages, said printer/labeller comprising:

an enclosing structure with motor drives, printing ribbons and receiving ribbons said motor drives being joined in a thermal printhead;

a printing cassette with a shape and size depending on a type of printing ribbon, said printing ribbon having a spool contained in said printing cassette, said printing cassette accommodating a take-up core and said spool of said printing ribbon, the core and spool having a central hole through which a driving device is inserted;

a first receiving cassette having an asymmetric conformation, said receiving ribbon having a spool contained in said receiving cassette, said receiving cassette containing said spool of ribbon medium and a take-up core, the core and spool having a central hole through which another driving device is inserted; and

a second receiving cassette having a composite form, distinct from said printing cassette and said first receiving cassette, said second receiving cassette having a front part containing a spool of said printing ribbon and said take-up core of said printing cassette, and a rear part holding said spool of said ribbon medium and said take-up core of said first receiving cassette, said front part and said rear part having a central hole to accommodate the driving devices of said printing cassette and said first receiving cassette; wherein the driving devices are externally motorized and guide the cassettes each driving device having a thermal printhead and a position adjusted via a device made integral with each driving device, each driving device having a series of idle rollers, a series of motorized rollers and a rubber-coated drive roller.

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2. (Currently amended) The printer/labeller according to Claim 1, further comprising:  
control devices locking said drive mechanisms and devices for rewinding and checking the ribbons for wear.

3. (Currently amended) The printer/labeller according to Claim 1, wherein said printing cassette, said first receiving cassette and said second receiving cassette are configured exclusively for ribbons contained in cassettes or equivalent quick-load packages.

4. (Currently amended) The printer/labeller according to Claim 1, wherein the cassettes are ready-to-use packages, each being comprised of a spool and take-up core rigidly connected by a rigid support.